position or compilation have all been challenged, some of them successfully.

As we have noted, numerous dictionaries have been compiled and under various dynasties. In some of these the characters are classified according to their initial and final sounds, in others according to radicals, and in still others by subjects. The Chinese have devoted much attention to philology, including the study of ancient pronunciations and forms of characters.

In marked contrast with the peoples of India the Chinese have been historically minded. Indeed, no other people in the history of the human race has over so long a period displayed so much zeal for recording in detail the events which it has deemed important. As a result no other nation possesses such voluminous records of so long a past. We have seen something of the dynastic histories, which, beginning with the *Shih Chi* of Ssu-ma Ch'ien, have continued the chronicles of the Empire through the Ch'ing. In a certain sense, each is a continuation and is built on the general plan of Ssu-ma Ch'ien's *magnum opus.*

The *Ch'un Ck'iu,* including the work traditionally associated with it, the *Tso Chuan,* provided the model for another type of history, largely in the form of a chronicle by years. This was in large part due to the prestige which its reputed Confucian authorship gave it. Perhaps the most famous of the group is the *Tzu CMh T'ung Chien,* by Ssu-ma Kuang, of the Sung, with supplementary compilations by the same author. It covered the course of China's development from late in the Chou to the beginning of the Sung, and, condensed by Chu Hsi and his disciples as the *T'ung Chien Kang Mu* and continued by later pens, became the

best known and most highly esteemed single history of the Empire. The *Tung Chien Kang Mu* has itself been the subject or the incentive of a number of studies, some of them supplementary and some critical. There have been many scores of other historical studies, a number of them extensive and displaying a high order of ability and originality of plan and conception. Some cover long periods and others only a comparatively brief time. Many specialize on particular phases of history. Collections have been made of state papers, among them compilations of memorials to the throne. There are hundreds of biographical works, some of them of single individuals, others bringing together the lives